

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR 1618-1648



- Finally the isolated European conflicts merged into a major war

The Origins:

- The Spanish had reluctantly accepted Dutch independence and hoped to regain the territory
- The Twelve Years' Truce between the Dutch and Spanish (1609-1621) allowed the Spanish to prepare for a final assault



BOHEMIA REVOLTS

- By the beginning of the 17th century, Catholicism and Protestantism had achieved equal numbers within the German State
- In 1617, Mathias, the childless Holy Roman Emperor, began making plans for his Catholic cousin, Ferdinand Habsburg, to succeed him
- Complicating matters was the necessity of Ferdinand being elected King of Bohemia to ensure control of the electors
- The Protestant princes of Bohemia could not prevent Ferdinand's election, but they could cause trouble



Where is Bohemia?



Historically, Bohemia is a region in central Europe, occupying the western and middle thirds of the Czech Republic. With an area of 52,750 sq. km. and 6.25 million of the country's 10.3 million inhabitants, Bohemia is bounded by Germany to the north-west, west and south-west, Poland to the north-east, the Czech province of Moravia to the east and Austria to the south.

DEFENESTRATION BEGINS 30 YEARS' WAR



Ferdinand II
HRE



Frederick V
King of
Bohemia

- The Defenestration initiated further Protestant offensives throughout Habsburg land
- Despite the protests, Ferdinand succeeded Mathias as HRE and became Ferdinand II (1619-1637)
- Meanwhile, Frederick V, one of the Protestant electors, accepted the Bohemian crown
- Frederick was the leader of the Protestant Union and the "Winter King of Bohemia"

FREDERICK V - THE WINTER KING



Battle of White Mountain

- A sincere but weak Calvinist, Frederick V had famous relatives
- His mother was a daughter of William of Orange and his wife, Elizabeth, was a daughter of James I of England
- Once Frederick V accepted the Bohemia crown he faced war on three fronts
- His immediate opponent, Ferdinand II had plenty of Catholic support, while Frederick V had little help from Protestant nations
- At the Battle of White Mountain in 1620, Ferdinand II annihilated



BOHEMIA FALLS TO HRE

- Bohemia became part of the hereditary Habsburg lands and subject to imperial law
- Protestants were repressed and rooted out, forever consolidating the Catholic character of Bohemia
- The Battle of White Mountain was a turning point in the history of central Europe



DEFENESTRATION OF PRAGUE

- Ferdinand's Protestant opponents in Bohemia objected to his limitation of Protestant liberties by throwing two of his chief advisors out of an upper story window of Prague castle
- The officials survived the "defenestration" by landed in a pile of manure



The Encyclopædia describes defenestration as "the act of throwing someone or something out of a window" and "the traditional Czechoslovakian method of assassinating prime ministers"

THE WAR WIDENS



The Danes led this potentially powerful alliance against the Spanish and the HRE

- The Habsburgs were now more dangerous than ever
- Ferdinand's aggressive Catholicism now threatened Protestant princes of Germany
- A grand Protestant alliance – supported secretly by the French – brought together England, Holland, several German states and Denmark

KING CHRISTIAN IV LEADS CHARGE...UNSUCCESSFULLY

- In 1626, a large Danish army under the command of King Christian IV engaged imperial forces on German soil
- By the Danes could not match the superior forces of the Catholic mercenaries under the brilliant Count Albrecht von Wallenstein
- In 1629, the Danes withdrew and sued for peace



PROTESTANTS THREATENED



Emperor Ferdinand II threatened the very survival of Protestant nations with his aggressive Catholicism

- Ferdinand II was determined to return all previous Catholic land (prior to 1555) back to the Catholics
- Furthermore, he proclaimed that the Peace of Augsburg made no provision for the toleration of Calvinists
- Ferdinand II's bullying had succeeded in pushing the Lutherans and Calvinists into an alliance against him

SACK OF MAGDEBURG PROVIDES RALLYING POINT FOR PROTESTANTS

- Meanwhile, the Imperial forces sacked the Protestant German town of Magdeburg – setting new standards in cruelty and brutality
- Protestants rallied around the sack of Magdeburg as it gave the Protestant community a unifying symbol
- In 1630, King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden decided to enter the German conflict



GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS GAINS PROTESTANT SUPPORT, VICTORIES

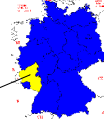


Gustavus Adolphus shown at the Battle of Breitenfeld in 1631 – the first important Protestant victory in the war

- King Adolphus was joined by the German states of Brandenburg and Saxony
- He had 140,000 men under his command and he soon won decisive victories against the Imperial forces
- His victory at Breitenfeld marked the first Protestant gains since the onset of the war
- King Adolphus would now take the war to the Catholics

ADOLPHUS PRESSES HIS ADVANTAGE

- After his victory at Breitenfeld, Adolphus pressed his advantage as the Swedes marched west to the Rhine, easily taking Catholic cities and the lower Palatinate
- Next, Adolphus captured the Upper Palatinate from Bavarian ruler Maximilian



There are two areas of Germany described as "Palatinates": the Upper and the Lower. The Upper is in eastern Bavaria and the Lower is on Germany's western border...they are not connected.



THE SHOWDOWN: ADOLPHUS VS. WALLENSTEIN



- In the winter of 1632 the armies of Protestant King Adolphus and Catholic general Wallenstein met at the battle of Lützen
- The Swedes won the battle, but lost their leader
- Adolphus left his legacy as Protestant forces now controlled most of central and northern Europe

FRANCE AND SPAIN RESUME STRUGGLE



France declared war on Spain in 1635



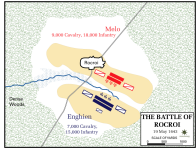
- The final stage of the war involved the resumption of the century-old struggle between France and Spain
- After the Spanish declared war on the Dutch in 1621 and the Habsburg success in central Europe, French King Louis XIII and his chief minister Cardinal Richelieu finally decided it was time to intervene in European politics

FRANCE AND SPAIN POUND ON EACH OTHER

- France took the offensive first, invading the Spanish Netherlands
- In 1636, Spain struck back, pushing to within 25 miles of Paris before being repelled
- The war resembled two punch-drunk fighters pounding each other



FRANCE OUTLASTS SPAIN



- In the end, Spain's poor economy and Imperial losses in central Europe, proved too much to overcome
- At the battle of Rocroi, exhausted French troops held out and the Spanish invasion failed
- The desire for peace was universal as the war took its toll on the combatants

COST OF THE WAR

- The costs of the conflict were horrific
- The population of Germany fell from 15 million in 1600 to 11 million in 1650
- Plague and famine were resurrected
- The war played havoc with the economies of the combatants



PEACE OF WESTPHALIA



The Peace of Westphalia, also known as the treaties of Münster and Osnabrück respectively, refers to the series of treaties that ended the Thirty Years' War, and "officially" recognized the United Provinces. The treaty was signed October 24, 1648, and meant an end to the long conflict between Catholic and Protestant forces.

- A series of agreements, collectively known as the Peace of Westphalia, established the outlines of the political geography of Europe for the next century
- The focus was on the HRE, and reflected Protestant success in the final two decades of the war

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Luther's questioning of his own faith led later to a series of religious and political conflicts of enormous proportions
- In the end, the northwest of Europe – England, Holland, Scandinavia, and the north German states – was Protestant, while the south was Catholic
- The HRE was dead, while the Austro-Hungarian Empire was just beginning
- Holland and Sweden became international powers; Spain and Denmark faded
- Muscovy began a long period of isolation



The Peace of Westphalia, 1648, recognized the new boundaries of European states that included an independent Portugal and United Netherlands. It also recognized the growth of the Ottoman Empire into the Balkans.

DETAILS OF SETTLEMENT



The Holy Roman Empire clearly lost prestige, land, and power

- Sweden gained further Baltic territories
- France gained territory and prestige
- The Dutch gained statehood through official recognition by Spain
- Habsburgs regained control of both Bohemia and Hungary
- Rights of Calvinists and the independence of the Swiss cantons were officially recognized
- The Emperor's political control over the German states was weakened
- German rulers were given independent authority